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INSECT SURVEY PROGRAM
Reports
Aerial Survey

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Central
Insect
Sawtooth

SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST

Annual Aerial Survey

September 18, 1956

by

W. E. Cole - W. E. Minoau[1]/
Entomologists

An aerial survey of the Sawtooth National Forest was conducted on September 18, 1956. The purpose of the examination was to detect, locate, and describe the evidence of unusual forest insect activity. Such an aerial survey also aids in planning ground coverage by revealing the danger spots.

The spruce budworm is the most prominent pest at this time. Three degrees of intensity of damage were used on the aerial work with budworm: light, medium, and heavy defoliation. This was based on current year defoliation. A ground appraisal survey covering the spruce budworm situation has been reported separately[2]/.

Bark beetle damage was also observed and recorded during the aerial survey. In the case of most bark beetles, the aerial detection reveals only the damage of the previous years' attacks and not the new infestations. In some cases there may be fading of foliage during the season of attack. Generally, ground work is required to determine the current status of bark beetle infestations.

It is planned to make yearly aerial examinations of the forest to observe the general conditions and possible dangerous situations in the early stages of development. Observations by Sawtooth Forest personnel during the year will also aid in improving our system of detection.

The attached map shows the flight lines followed during the aerial survey and the centers of infestation as mapped. A description of each area is keyed out on the map with brief statements on the insect species involved.

1/Forestry Aid - Research

2/Cole, W. E. 1956. Spruce Budworm in Southern Idaho with Special Reference to Surveys. Mimeo. IF&RES. F.S. Ogden, Utah.

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Area A.
This area lies between Iron Mountain Lookout on the South Fork of the Boise River on the north, Deadwood Creek on the west, and Salt Creek on the east. The budworm infestation within this area has fluctuated in intensity throughout the years. This area was first recorded in 1949 and to date, 1956, is heavily defoliated along Downs Creek and Boardman Creek. Boardman Creek seems to be the center of this infestation. The periphery of this area contains light defoliation.

Area B.
Area B ranges from Johnson Creek on the north and the South Fork of the Boise on the south, Ross Peak and that ridge bordering the west, and the South Fork of the Boise River to the east. This area is generally lightly infested; Ross Fork appeared to be the center of the infestation.

Area C.
This area lies between Morton Creek on the east, Paradise Lookout on the west, West Fork of Smoky Creek on the north, and Pinyon Gulch on the south. This is a first-year infestation and very lightly defoliated.

Area D.
Area D is an area centering around Five Points. Here again this area has fluctuated in intensity the past five years. The 1956 survey shows this to be very lightly infested.

Area E.
This is a group of about 10 alpine fir attacked in 1955 by the fir engraver. However, between the forks of Ross Creek and Johnson Creek some thirty faded alpine fir trees were located. These were probably attacked in 1954 by the fir engraver.

Area F.
About two miles north of the Big Smoky Guard Station, a group of about 15 faded alpine fir were located.

Area G.
Between the heads of Warfield Creek and Warm Springs Creek about ten miles west of Bald Mountain, a group of some 50 to 60 faded alpine fir trees were located. These trees were probably killed in 1955 by the fir engraver beetle.

Area H.
Just below and to the south of Bald Mountain on the Feather River and at the head of Pinto, Sand, Alta, and East Fork of Elk Creek, a group of about 40 Douglas-fir faders were spotted. This group was probably killed in 1955 by the Douglas-fir beetle. Throughout the ends of these three drainages very sporadic ponderosa pine faders were located, probably having been attacked by the mountain pine beetle or western pine beetle. Also, within this area the budworm defoliation seems to be medium in intensity. This area was sprayed in the 1955 Spruce

Budworm Control Project, so possibly this could still be a carry-over from the intensity of defoliation at the time.

Area I.
Area I lies along the South Fork of the Boise River at the head of Virginia Gulch, Abbot Gulch, and O.K. Gulch. Within this area there are some 30 dead Douglas-fir trees. These trees were probably attacked and killed in 1955 by the Douglas-fir bark beetle.

Area J.
At the head of Beaver Creek and the east fork of Kelly Creek some 30 alpine fir trees were located that were attacked by the fir engraver in 1955.

Area K.
Area K lies along the main drainage of Lime Creek. About 50 faded Douglas-fir trees were located along the main drainage within about 5 or 6 miles between Steep Gulch and Rattlesnake Creek. These trees were probably attacked in 1955 by the Douglas-fir bark beetle.

SUMMARY

From past records the budworm damage of the Sawtooth National Forest is about average. No control is recommended due to the fluctuating intensity of history of these areas. Alpine fir beetle seems to be more prevalent this year than in previous years. The number of Douglas-fir beetle-attacked trees seems to be rather on the increase over last year. This has been in progress on many of the Douglas-fir stands throughout the region.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST

NORTH DIVISION

IDAHO

BOISE MERIDIAN

1955*

SCALE

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LEGEND

- NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
- ADJACENT NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
- MAIN MOTOR HIGHWAY
- GOOD MOTOR ROAD
- POOR MOTOR ROAD
- TRAIL
- RAILROAD
- TELEPHONE LINE
- SUPERVISOR'S HEADQUARTERS
- DISTRICT RANGER STATION
- GUARD OR RANGER STATION NOT PERMANENTLY OCCUPIED
- PERMANENT LOOKOUT STATION
- TRIANGULATION STATION
- TRIANGULATION STATION AND PERMANENT LOOKOUT STATION
- COMMERCIAL OR MUNICIPAL LANDING FIELD
- INTERMEDIATE LANDING FIELD
- HOUSE, CABIN, OR OTHER BUILDING
- FOREST SERVICE RADIO STATION

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